X. APPENDIX A

Prefire/Wildfire Interaction Report

FIRE NAME:The Geysers__INCIDENT #: __CA-LNU 006644_____

DATE: September 3-8, 2004

UNIT:__Sonoma-Lake Napa (LNU)

INCIDENT COMMANDER: ___Streblow___

FIRE ACREAGE:_12,525 acres

SUPPRESSION COST: $_____

DAMAGE TO ASSETS AT RISK: $_____

PREFIRE TREATMENT: Manual fuelbreaks constructed by Konocti Conservation Camp crews.

BENEFITS OF TREATMENTS TO SUPRESSION EFFORT: Reduced direct flame and heat impingement on two 110-megawatt power plants and allowed for confident and safe deployment of firefighters ahead of advancing wildfire (see photos).

REDUCTION IN SUPPRESSION EFFORT: N/A

REDUCTION IN SUPPRESSION COSTS: N/A

ESTIMATED VALUE OF ASSETS SAVED: $400 million.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (PHOTOS, MAPS ETC.):

A guiding principle of LNU's Fire Management Plan is to use Konocti and Delta Conservation Camps to implement fire safe projects on public lands that have been identified in the Plan as priorities. These projects are executed as routine work projects meeting the Legislature's Policy Declaration of using the camps "to perform public conservation projects including…fire prevention and control, and forest and watershed management." During the Geysers Fire in September 2004, one such project was instrumental in mitigating the costs and losses due to a major wildfire that threatened two of the primary assets at risk identified in the Unit's Fire Management Plan.

During the previous winter of 2003-2004, LNU's Prefire Division Chief Dana Cole and Battalion Chief Kim Thompson worked with representatives of the geothermal power industry in the Geysers Known Geothermal Resources Area (KGRA) to develop an assets at risk analysis and recommendations for protection of 22 power generating plants and associated support buildings. Located on an active fault of the Clear Lake Volcanic Area, the Geysers KGRA constitutes the most productive geothermal field in the world, generating up to 2,000 megawatts of electrical capacity, enough to supply the electrical power needs of more than 1 million Californians. The generating plants themselves are valued at $200 million each, and are located across 30,000 acres of one of the most wildfire-prone regions of the Unit. Specific recommendations were developed for each facility for the purpose of improving asset survivability and firefighter safety. A private contractor was hired to implement vegetation management recommendations on the 20 privately owned power plants.

The two remaining plants are owned and operated by a public agency, the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), a California Joint Action Agency. NCPA membership is open to municipalities, rural electric cooperatives, irrigation districts and other publicly owned entities interested in the purchase, aggregation, scheduling and management of electrical energy. A total of 12 NCPA members own shares of the generation facilities. These include the California cities of Healdsburg, Redding, Ukiah, Gridley, Lompoc, Palo Alto, Biggs, and Roseville, all of which receive a portion of their electricity from the 220 megawatts generated at the two NCPA plants in the Geysers KGRA.

The NCPA plants are located on graded pads at the top of steep, brush-covered slopes. During the winter of 2003-2004, NCPA contracted with Konocti Conservation Camp to construct firebreaks around the plants. When a major wildfire burned this area the following September, the defensible space afforded by these fuelbreaks was credited with protecting the facilities. Direct flame and heat impingement was reduced due to the vegetation clearance, and firefighters were able to deploy safely and act.

Firefighters defend NCPA Plant #1, September 4, 2004

NCPA Plants # 1 (left) and #2 (right) following the Geysers Fire, September 2004.